

FIRE BURNS ELEVEN EDISON BUILDINGS

Inventor Starts Reconstruction Immediately—Loss, \$7,000,000.

ONE CHARRED BODY FOUND; TWO OTHER MEN MISSING

Film Explosion Causes Blaze—Laboratory and Six Houses Saved. Force Begins Removing Debris.

WEST ORANGE, N. J., December 10.—When the fire which swept the ten-story manufacturing plant of the Thomas A. Edison Company here was extinguished today, a hurried inventory of the damage revealed that eleven of the eighteen buildings had been destroyed, others had been damaged and that the loss would approximate \$7,000,000. Seven thousand men are employed at the plant and half of these, it is estimated, may be out of work temporarily.

The entire force of employees was put to work today at removing the debris under the active supervision of Thomas A. Edison, who began tearing down the concrete walls, which had to be removed, while the embers were cooling. Immediate steps to rebuild have been taken. While the fire was at its height, Thomas A. Edison, whose inventions are perfected and manufactured at the plant, announced that work of rebuilding would be pushed rapidly.

At least one man perished in the flames. This became known today with the finding of a charred body in the ruins of the film house where the explosion occurred, which started the blaze. Two other men, both workmen, were reported missing.

The flames were beaten back from the laboratory and workshop of Mr. Edison, where were stored innumerable records and materials gathered from every corner of the world, the result of more than thirty years of the inventor's efforts. At the height of the fire a force of men removed the most valuable records to Mr. Edison's home in Llewellyn Park, not far away.

Many of the 7,000 men and women employed by the company were retained in their regular capacities, while all were given employment of some kind.

\$2,000,000 Insurance.

The plant was covered by \$2,000,000 regular insurance, the remainder of the loss being protected by a self-insurance fund maintained by the company. This, however, was said to be small.

There were between 250 and 300 men and women working at the plant when the fire started. An entire square block of modern reinforced concrete buildings which were supposed to be fireproof was burned out by the flames. The only building saved in the block was the laboratory building, containing valuable scientific machinery under the immediate supervision of the inventor, Thomas A. Edison. Special efforts made to save this structure were successful.

Four firemen were injured in fighting the blaze and were taken to a hospital.

Will Start All Over.

"Although I am more than sixty-seven years of age, I'll start all over again," said Mr. Edison. "I am pretty well burned out, but there will be a mobilization here today, and the debris will be cleared away if it is cooled sufficiently, and I will go right to work to reconstruct the plant."

The inventor expressed himself thus as he stood early today watching the flames licking up buildings after buildings in his mammoth electrical plant, started, it is thought probably, by an explosion in the inspection building, one of the smaller frame structures. This building was quickly a mass of flames, and the spread of the fire to other structures nearby was rapid.

The quantities of chemicals in some of the larger buildings made the work of fighting the fire extremely difficult, as the firemen were constantly in danger of injury. Explosions of chemicals occurred frequently. Employees were at work in the various departments about the plant. The fire-dripped bell was sounded, and men and women marched out in virtually perfect order.

In all eleven buildings in the main plant went down with the fire. The buildings destroyed included those occupied by the New Diamond Disc Company, the one occupied by the Kinetophone Company and the building which housed the Bates numbering

LIFE IN TRENCHES NOT HARDSHIP

Help Is Silent.

The fire departments from Orange, East and South Orange, Bloomfield, Montclair and some companies from Newark responded to a call for help, but the firemen from all sides were badly handicapped by lack of sufficient pressure. Additional water later was secured by connection with the East Orange mains, but by this time the whole block was in flames and doomed to destruction.

The electric light wires of the town went out of commission when the powerhouse at the Edison plant was destroyed, plunging the place into darkness. From the blazing electrical plant itself, however, there shot up towering flames, which illuminated the countryside for miles around. Thousands of persons from the Oranges and nearby hurried to the scene and the police had their hands full controlling the crowd.

Mr. Edison was not at the plant when the fire broke out, but he was quickly notified and soon appeared. He assumed personal charge of directing the forces combating the flames, which were sweeping away the buildings that represented the work of years of his brain in their design, equipment and the products they sent out.

Save the Laboratory.

He was especially anxious regarding the laboratory building and when he found that it probably would be impossible to save the greater part of the rest of the plant, he had the efforts of the firefighters centered upon the laboratory structure.

In the meantime such of the valuable scientific instruments, drawings, models and other treasured possessions of the inventor in this building as could be readily moved were carried to a place of safety.

After the fire it was Mr. Edison himself who made the estimate of the damage. The buildings destroyed, including the large amount of valuable stock and delicate machinery that they contained, he estimated at about \$7,000,000, he said, while there was \$2,000,000 insurance on the plant. The burned buildings, the inventor said, were supposed to be among the finest examples of modern fireproof construction, and such had been exhibited all over the country.

Pythian Chiefs Coming.

Supreme Lodge Officers to Be Guests of Mount Vernon Lodge.

The Knights of Pythias of the District have completed arrangements for the reception of the Supreme Lodge officers who are due to arrive in the city tomorrow to attend the convention of the Pythian Temple. The visitors will include B. S. Young of Ada, Okla., supreme chancellor; John J. Brown of Vandalia, Ill., supreme vice chancellor; Fred E. Wheaton of Minneapolis, Minn., supreme keeper of records and seal, and Thomas D. Mead of Wilmington, N. C., supreme master of exchequer.

Mount Vernon Lodge, No. 5, the second oldest Pythian lodge in the world, will meet in special convention at 7:30 o'clock tomorrow night to receive the distinguished class of officers at the class initiation, for which about 100 candidates have been enrolled. The Pythian temple, a committee, headed by Grand Vice Chancellor William A. Kimmel, Mr. Wheaton will assist in the initiation, and the obligation of the Rathbone Bible.

After the work of the rank has been completed a film production of Damon and Pythias will be presented in open meeting, so that all who desire may witness the performance.

United States senators and representatives to the number of more than 100 who belong to the Pythian order have been invited to be present.

CONSUMERS' LEAGUE MEETS.

Annual National Convention Opens Sessions at the Raleigh.

A meeting of the executive committee at 2 o'clock this afternoon opened the fifteenth annual convention of the National Consumers' League, holding a two-day session at the Raleigh Hotel. At tonight's session, at 8 o'clock, Dr. Harvey W. Wiley presiding, addresses are to be made by John Graham Brooks, president of the league; Miss Jean Gordon, secretary of the Louisiana state commission on labor of women and children; and Mrs. Florence Kelley, general secretary of the league. The meeting is to be open to the general public.

Tomorrow's session is to open with a meeting of the general council at 10 a.m.

Elks' Oyster Club Celebration.

Arrangements have been completed by the Elks Oyster Club, composed of members of the Washington Lodge of Elks, to observe its second anniversary tonight at the H street clubhouse. Starting in a modest way with monthly oyster roasts, the club met with such success that it was necessary to build a rathskeller in the basement of the building to entertain the members of the lodge and their guests.

The varied program is to be rendered in the first-floor social hall, including selections by the Clarendon Musical Association of twenty-eight pieces, jukebox music and dancing by Master Preston Snyder, and cornet solos by Arthur Witcomb.

Venice this year imported 6,000 tons of American coal and ordered 25,000 tons for next year.

LIFE IN TRENCHES NOT HARDSHIP

Many of Soldiers Have Clever Means of Making Themselves Comfortable.

LARDERS ARE ENRICHED BY RABBITS AND BIRDS

One Body of Infantry Has an "Underground Farm" in Which Cows Are Kept.

Foreign Correspondence of The Star.

PARIS, November 27.—Life in the trenches of the Aisne and the Ypres is altogether cold, dreariness and hardship. Some of the soldiers are making themselves comfortable in very clever ways, and their spirits are high. A French underground army writes home as follows from a point in Flanders:

"We dig comfortable rathskellers and line them with straw, and remain there for three, four or five days, firing at the German lines now and then, and the rest of the time sleeping, eating, playing cards, watching the enemy's shells falling, or the flight of aeroplanes. Each battery soon becomes a little village. Ours—I speak only of the firing party, not the supply column—counts fifty-nine inhabitants, living in eighteen huts. It is a sort of perpetual July 14—because by day and night we are firing. At least we don't hear the explosions, except by deliberately listening."

"Such is the battle of Flanders as we villagers see it; now in the day, a village of cave-dwellers behind the lines, with interludes of firing; at night, a sleep broken by occasional alarms."

Birds Are Maddened.

"During the last two or three weeks our men have considerably enriched their larder by adding to it hares, rabbits and pheasants. The poor birds, which are very plentiful here, are chased and easily beaten down. Some days our battery has had in stock 100 hares, fifty rabbits and a score of pheasants."

Another French soldier says that his countrymen have learned the lesson of trench warfare, and can now teach their neighbors something.

"In really up-to-date trenching you may find kitchens, dining rooms, bedrooms, and even stables," he writes. "One regiment has first-class cooking sheds. One day a whimsical platoon, finding a whole lot of food in the trench, had the bright idea of building a kitchen in the trench. The example was quickly copied, and at this moment the infantry possesses an underground farm, in which fat cattle, well cared for, give such quantities of milk that the regular distributions of butter are being made—and very good butter, too."

"There has been some severe fighting near Souain, in the vague, flat region between the trenches and the Argonne forest. The soldiers of the wild clatter of arms that M. Charles Menier, seigneur of the region, has written, writes, 'I have seen you would suppose it was a light life they live down there in the trenches.'"

"The enemy," he says, "is quite near, over the hill. From time to time an angry fusillade breaks out. It is noisy, then, but the soldiers are not disturbed. About twice a week there are more serious attacks, very costly for those who initiate them. It is a fact, in fact, almost to the point of impossibility, to cross the four or five hundred yards that separate the two lines."

That Prized "Tabac."

Hence merits and certain odd but characteristic conventions. "A hare runs out between the trenches. It is greeted with rival volleys. It falls. A Frenchman jumps to get it. The Prussians wave a white handkerchief and cry, 'Tabac! Tabac!' which means that if we give them some tobacco they will let us have the hare. So our men club together and one of the boys goes and gets the hare, leaving in place of it a big packet of tobacco. Scarcely has he got back to the trench than the enemy is firing. The hare is for the ransom. Then silence falls upon the scene, and five minutes afterward, if a hare is shown, there is a blaze of firing."

"But M. Piquou must have his little joke. When anybody is killed, bored to death, he picks up an officer's cap, which has been left in a corner of the trench, and rises it on a stick just above the level of the ground. Immediately it is the signal for the German marksmen, each firing a bullet not by volley. A bullet strikes the cap. At once a spade is waved above the trench, like a flag at a rifle, and the trench is full of laughter and merriment. There are more useful games than this, especially the game of 'Monkeys.' This is the name the French infantrymen have given to this meat which the British call 'bully beef.' The empty tins are found to make quite good alarm bells. Some times they are hung on strings, some times they are simply scattered about, under cover of darkness, between the trenches, so that the enemy, when rushing across will make a clatter. They are put as far forward as possible, and, says the French soldier, 'There are competitors who will carry his boxes the farthest. There are trenches which have as many as 500 tins thrown about in front of them, but the best is ever the foe of the good,' or so we think who are physicians. The bill would become effective July 1, 1915."

BILL FOR D. C. PROHIBITION.

Senator Thompson Proposes a Draconic Law, With Heavy Penalties.

A bill providing for prohibition in the District of Columbia was introduced in the Senate today by Senator Thompson of Kansas. The bill makes it a misdemeanor to sell any fermented or intoxicating drinks in the District of Columbia, and provides for each offense a fine of from \$100 to \$500 and imprisonment for not less than thirty days or more than ninety days. The bill also makes it a misdemeanor for any one to give an intoxicating drink to any minor, except in the case of a parent, guardian or physician. The bill would become effective July 1, 1915.

TO RECALL U. S. TROOPS.

Colorado Ready to Handle Situation in Mining District.

Federal troops in the Colorado strike region probably will be ordered withdrawn later today or tomorrow. Senator Thompson gave President Wilson today a telegram from Gov. Ammons, inquiring as to the intentions of the federal government, and the governor is expected to telegraph the President that the state is ready to resume control of the situation. As soon as that is received the President will order the troops withdrawn.

Michael Wilson, senior member of the firm of D. Wilson & Sons, furniture manufacturers, died yesterday at his home in Baltimore of a complication of diseases. He was born in Baltimore fifty-five years ago. He was the son of David Wilson.

MILLION MARK PASSED BY SENATE

Total Endowment Now Reaches \$1,002,500—Judge Gray Head of Executive Committee.

The total endowment of the Smithsonian Institution is now \$1,002,500, according to the report of the executive committee presented at the annual meeting of the board of regents this morning at the Smithsonian building. Only the income of this sum is used to defray the expenses of research, exploration, publication and the maintenance of the different activities of the institution.

Judge George Gray was elected chairman of the executive committee to succeed the late Senator Bacon. Chief Justice Edward Douglas White, chancellor, presided. Among those present were Vice President Thomas H. Marshall, Senators William J. Stone and Henry F. Hollis, Representatives Maurice Connolly and Ernest W. Roberts, Dr. Charles D. Walcott, Alexander Graham Bell, John R. Henderson, Jr., Charles W. Fairbanks and the Secretary of the Institution, Dr. Charles D. Walcott.

Successful Test of Airship.

Dr. Walcott, in his report for the fiscal year, mentioned the successful testing of the original Langley flying machine.

Announcement was made of the death of Senator A. O. Bacon and an appropriate minute was adopted as a memorial.

Announcement was also made of the appointment of Senator Henry F. Hollis of New Hampshire to succeed Senator Bacon, and of the reappointment of Charles F. Choate, Jr., of Boston.

DANTE ON THE STAND.

Hutchins Estate Trustee Tells of Relations With Millionaire.

William J. Dante, trustee of the Hutchins estate and collector of its income under appointment of the Probate Court, testified today at the trial of the contest over the will of Stilson Hutchins. Mr. Dante was called as a witness by Lee Hutchins, the son, who is attacking the will, and was examined by Attorney Frank J. Hogan of counsel for the executor.

Mr. Dante told of his employment by Stilson Hutchins as a clerk in 1915 and said for many years he was secretary and confidential man of the millionaire. The trustee told of an incident in 1904 when he was called from his office in the Hutchins building to the street, where he found his employer sitting in a cab suffering from a stroke of paralysis.

Later characterized Mr. Hutchins before the 1904 paralytic stroke as being a man of most remarkable character and master mind, but stated that after that illness his condition was changed.

Herrick Refuses to Discuss Boom.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, December 10.—Myron T. Herrick, former ambassador to France, accompanied by Mrs. Herrick, arrived here early today, and was escorted to his home, where he will rest up for a public reception to be given in his honor in Central Armory late this afternoon. He declined to discuss the political situation, but said he would have "to earn some money," as his duties in Paris had cost him \$100,000.

Siddons' Nomination Is Referred.

The nomination of Frederick L. Siddons to be an associate justice of the District Supreme Court has been referred to a subcommittee of the Senate judiciary committee, consisting of Senator Culberson, chairman, and Senators CHAMBERLAIN, Clark of Wyoming and Nelson.

To Incorporate Boy Scouts.

Senator Shields of Tennessee has introduced in the Senate a bill providing for the federal incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America. Among the incorporators enumerated in the bill are Colin H. Livingston and Ernest P. Bicknell of Washington, D. C.

The Christmas Room.

Is for your convenience in sending gifts. Packages tied for you—tissue paper and ribbon furnished—stamps sold and packages mailed. We invite you to make free use of this convenience.

An Ideal Gift!

New and desirable lines—a wide assortment of choice colors and the season's latest patterns of embroideries!

At \$1.15 Pr.—CAPITOL 2-clasp SAMPLE BAGS in seal, oxford, silk and velvet—fashionable shapes—black, blue and brown, gilt and covered frames. Each bag contains a set of real grain leather, containing 6 fittings in English ivory.

At \$2.85 Pr.—16-button Mousquetaire—full elbow length. Sizes 5 1/2 to 7 1/2, in white and black.

All of these Gloves are the best of their kinds it is possible to produce and are given the full CENTEMERI GUARANTEE. They will be willingly exchanged at any of the Centemeri stores or agencies throughout the United States, and therefore can be sent as gifts to any point with complete satisfaction.

Purchase of Leather Goods!

About 100 pieces all told—new, perfect and most desirable for Christmas giving!

\$5 to \$7 Bags & Traveling Cases, \$3.25 SAMPLE BAGS in seal, oxford, silk and velvet—fashionable shapes—black, blue and brown, gilt and covered frames. Each bag contains a set of real grain leather, containing 6 fittings in English ivory.

\$8.50 to \$15 Bags & Toilet Cases, \$5.50 30 styles; gilt, gun metal and silver metal. Each set contains a set of real grain leather, containing 6 fittings in English ivory.

Neckwear Purchase—1/2 Price!

25c 50c Regularly \$1.00 Regularly \$1.50 to \$3.00

A small lot, but each piece at half or less. Novelties in lace and organza. Collars, vests, neckties, Cuffs and Cuffs—the fashionable styles. Cannot be duplicated.

Purchase of Marabou!

Gift sets in fine marabou—novelty pieces at great savings.

\$10 and \$12.50 Marabou Sets, \$7.85 Popular black and white sets—black marabou combined with white ostrich, cape and large pillow muffs; also sets in natural marabou, \$7.85.

\$20.00 Natural Sets, \$14.50.

Complete—various new styles, including the melon muffs, with capes to match. Extra heavy and fine quality marabou especially for gifts.

EXTENSION IS ORDERED BY UTILITIES BOARD

W. R. and E. Company to Lay Lines for Better Southwest Street Car Service.

Following months of consideration of plans for better street railway facilities for operatives in the bureau of engraving and printing and other government departments in that vicinity, the public utilities commission today ordered the Washington Railway and Electric Company to make extension in its lines so as to provide direct service between the northwest section of the city and the section in which are located the federal buildings mentioned.

The changes ordered, which are approved by the company and were worked out as a result of conferences between its officials and those of the commission, call for the building of a connecting link on 14th street between F street and Pennsylvania avenue and the installation of double track on Water street so as to provide car storage facilities. The company is given until June 30 next to complete the improvement and have the through line in operation.

As a part of the general improvement work at the intersection of 14th and G streets, the commission ordered the company to install double-track special work at the intersection of 14th and G streets to turn east on G street and northbound cars on 14th street to turn east on G street.

Double Tracks on Water Street.

It is also ordered that the company construct double tracks on Water street, east from 14th street, connecting with the existing tracks of the Washington-Virginia Railway Company, the south track on Water street to be of sufficient length to accommodate, east of the east curb of 14th street, at least four of the longest cars operating on the Washington-Virginia Railway Company on 14th street to turn east on Water street and permit westbound cars on Water street to turn north on 14th street.

It is expected that the commission will authorize the company to issue bonds for the purpose of financing the improvement.

INDIANS ASK COMMISSION.

Want Laws to "Open the Door of Hope and Progress."

President Wilson was asked today by a committee of 100 Indians, representing the Society of American Indians, now in session at the Hotel Powhatan, to appoint a commission to investigate the conditions of the Indians and recommend the passage of a code of Indian law "which shall open the door of hope and progress to our people."

Mr. Wilson was also asked to approve a movement to have the Court of Claims given jurisdiction over all Indian claims against the United States. The President promised to take the requests under advisement.

German Liners Not for Sale.

LONDON, December 10.—A Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam says that the Hamburg-American line has issued a statement to the effect that the company has no intention of selling the ships of the line which are tied up in American ports as a result of the war.

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PLAZA CLAIMANTS HEARD.

Attorneys representing property holders in square 722, included in the proposed extension of Union station plaza, appeared today before the commission designated by the President to determine the fair market value of property involved in the extension project and to make awards on that basis.

The commission hopes, by calling these property owners and their counsel, to obtain information to lead them to the determination of the fair market value not only of these lots, but of all parcels of property in the square.

Best Quality COAL

Lowest Prices

For C. O. D. delivery east of 17th and south of W. St. and in Washington, D. C. White Ash, \$1.10. Large Furnace, \$2.00. Chestnut, \$2.25. W. A. Best, \$2.35. Subject to change without notice. We handle only the best grade of coal that can be bought, and guarantee 2,500 pounds to every ton. Delivered 40 cents.

JOHN MILLER & CO., PHONE MAIN 6266. 911 H ST. N.W.

R. W. & J. B. HENDERSON.

Enduring Xmas Gifts.

VERY SPECIAL VALUES IN

Cowan Mahogany Furniture

Tea Carts, Tea Tables, Smokers' Stands, Ladies' Desks, Desk Chairs, Music Cabinets, Curio Cabinets, Bookcases, Book Racks, Work Tables, Cellarettes, Candlesticks, Tilt-top Tables, Muffin Racks, Nest Tables, Pedestals, Floor Lamps, Electrolights, Desk Sets.

Price, \$20.50

Cowan Solid Mahogany Sewing Table, as shown above; top closed, 18x18 in.; top open, 18x24 in. Price, \$22

Cowan Solid Mahogany Gate-leg Table, reproduction of Independence Table. Price, \$48

Cowan Solid Mahogany Muffin Stand, plain shelves. Price, \$5

Cowan Solid Mahogany Smoker's Stand, with removable glass tray and patent match holder. Price, \$8

Cowan Solid Mahogany Drop-leaf Sewing Table, fluted legs. Price, \$20.50

Cowan Solid Mahogany Nest Table, comprising three tables of graduated size. Price, \$16.50

Price, \$16.50

The Famous Cowan Martha Washington Work Tables, solid mahogany. SPECIAL \$15

R. W. & J. B. Henderson,

1109 F St., Through to 1108 G St.

Philipsborn THE OUTER GARMENT SHOP

608 TO 614 ELEVENTH STREET.

Special Prices on Furs.

Because of the unfavorable weather conditions of the past six weeks we are overstocked in our fur department. Instead of waiting until after Xmas we announce the following special prices to go into effect immediately:

Fur Coats.

\$200 Hudson Seal.....\$150.00
\$150 Hudson Seal.....\$125.00
\$115 Hudson Seal.....\$90.00
\$100 Mole Hudson.....\$50.00
\$175 Leopard.....\$100.00
\$175 Sable Squirrel.....\$100.00
\$85 Mink Marmot.....\$59.00
\$85 Caracul.....\$69.00

Fur Sets.

\$50 Blue Wolf.....\$40.00
\$50 Natural Skunk.....\$40.00
\$40 Black Fox.....\$29.50
\$45 Taupe Wolf.....\$35.00
\$25 Natural Wolf.....\$20.00
\$25 Red Fox.....\$20.00
\$35 Mole Hudson.....\$25.00
\$25 Natural Raccoon.....\$20.00
\$35 Hudson Seal.....\$25.00

Now About 1/2 Price

Cloth suits—chiffon velvet suits; dresses for street, afternoon and evening wear; chiffon velvet street and evening wraps. Many of the above garments are luxuriously trimmed with fur.

M. Brooks & Co.

The Women's Store 1109 G Street

Don't Forget Our New Kimono Department—Special Prices

An Extraordinary Sale of Coats

We have gone through our entire stock of Coats and selected two groups and marked them at special prices for this sale. They are in the most popular styles shown this season and in the best fabrics. Here's your opportunity to buy a handsome Coat for little.

\$16.95 \$25.00

Salts Scalette Plush Coats; all lined and have a skunk opossum collar. A great bargain. \$25.00 Value

100 Dressy Coats, fur trimmed and other stylish effects. In Velour, Plush, Meritex and Broadcloth. Positive \$40.00 Value

One Special Suit Item for Friday and Saturday

250 Broadcloth and Gabardine Suits, fur trimmed. In the smartest models shown this season. \$35 values. \$9.95

Largest Waist Department—Best Values

Crepe de Chine Waists by the Hundreds \$2.98, \$5.00 and \$7.50
Special Showing of Holiday Waists At \$1.00
Others ask from \$5 to \$10. In the daintiest effects. Neatly boxed.

Revillon Furs—Centemeri Gloves

1216 F Street N.W.

Starting Tomorrow—Important to All Having Christmas Purchases to Make—A Series of